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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/059,034	01/29/2002	Barry Libes	LIBES-1	7231

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EXAMINER

WILLIAMS, MARK A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3676

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/059,034

Applicant(s)

LIBES, BARRY

Examiner

Mark A. Williams

Art Unit

3676



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-13,15 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-13 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 11, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moe in view of Alonso, US Patent 6,397,431. Moe discloses the claimed combination except for explicit teaching of the securing means being located between the attached and unattached ends of the arm structure. Alonso teaches the general concept of providing securing means for arm structure 61 in the claimed manner. Such an arrangement is old and well known in the art and provides for an arm unit that can be stamped from a single piece of sheet metal. It would have been obvious at the time invention was made for one skilled in the art to have modified the design of Moe in this way, for the purpose of achieving an alternative bracket design that can be stamped from a single piece of sheet metal.

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1. Claims 3, 4, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moe in view of Alonso in further view of Mitchell et al., US Patent 4,825,509. Moe does not teach a securing segment, as claimed. Mitchell teaches the general concept of securing segments for fitting around edges or corner regions as a way of securing an element. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made for one skilled in the art to modified the device of Moe to include a securing element, as taught in Mitchell, for the purpose of providing additional means for securing the device to an edge or corner.

2. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moe in view of Alonso and in further view of Mitchell. The combination does not explicitly teach countersunk screw hole as claimed. The examiner serves Official Notice that it is very old and well known in the art to include such structure in the design of screw holes, for the purpose of receiving the head of the screw. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to include such a modification in the design of the combination, for the purpose of receiving the head of the screw.

3. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moe in view of Alonso. The combination discloses the claimed invention except for the specified dimension of 3/8". It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the combination in this way, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980). Such a modification is not critical to the design and would have produced to unexpected results.

4. Claims 9 and 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moe in view of Alonso. The combination discloses the claimed invention except for the specific size of the arm. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to having modified the device in this way, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955). Such a modification would have produced no unexpected results and is not considered critical to the design.

5. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moe in view of Alonso in further view of Mitchell. The combination discloses the claimed invention except for the specific size of the securing element. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to have modified the design in this way, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955). Such a modification would have produced no unexpected results and is not considered critical to the design.

6. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moe in view of Alonso. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the device in this way, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8. Such a modification would have produced no unexpected results and is not considered critical to the design.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 16 is allowed.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

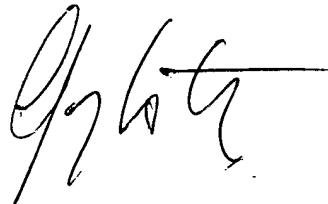
Conclusion

This action is non-final.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark A. Williams whose telephone number is (703) 305-3438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-1113.

Mark Williams
3/20/04



GARY ESTREMSKY
PRIMARY EXAMINER